

Former Nansemond Ordnance Depot (FNOD) October 2008 Project Update

Since the last Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) meeting on 4 September 2008, the primary focus of the Corps team has been in aggressively pursuing the removal of munitions-related waste from the bluff just above the Nansemond River Beachfront and executing, hopefully, the last field sampling plan needed to fill the data gaps that remained in the Main Burning Ground (MBG) area. Southeastern Virginia was spared significant storm activity over this 2008 hurricane season and our excavation activities were only interrupted by one relatively minor tropical storm while our teams were in the middle of the NRB excavation work. That being said, we also ran into far more than we ever expected to find there and Suresh Kikkeri has been forced to shift funding to cover several additional weeks of unexpected munitions team work. See MMRP Update below for details.

The Corps is providing this UPDATE to keep our FNOD RAB members and the public current on the Corps' progress at this site. RAB members are encouraged to share any information in this UPDATE with interested members of the public and municipal and civic leaders as they feel is appropriate. The next RAB meeting will take place on December 4th at 6:15 P.M. It will be held in our regular Marriot Courtyard Hotel first floor meeting room location. The hotel is located at the corner of Harbour View and College Drive, at 8060 Harbour View Boulevard, Suffolk, near the entrance to the TCC Portsmouth campus.

Military Munitions Response Program (MMRP) Progress and Upcoming Schedule:



The photograph shows factory packaged blocks of TNT (with some paper still attached) that was recovered from the excavation along the bluff of the Nansemond River. Interestingly, all prior TNT at FNOD was related to clean-out residue, so this is a surprising first.

As of early October 2008, the following list of materials had been removed from the Nansemond River Beachfront trench area where the first indications of TNT were discovered in July 2006:

- 1,006 lbs of TNT (**disposed of by detonation**)
- 48 DMM items (37mm, 75mm and grenades) (**disposed of by detonation**)
- 2,257 non-electric detonators in wood cases (**disposed of by detonation**)
- 1,127 lbs of MPPEH (to be inspected when excavation completed)
- 169 lbs of Munitions Debris (MD), and
- 428 lbs of non-munitions related scrap.

The Munitions Team will remain beyond scheduled at the NRB TNT pit due to the depth of this excavation and the requirement to slope the sides to maintain a safe work environment. The earth is being removed from the pit and slope and laid out in 6-inch piles that can be easily swept with magnetometers to remove any MEC. With the depth now reaching 9.5 feet deep, the excavation has to be expanded again to maintain proper sloping to avoid dangers to workers should a pit sidewall collapse. A larger excavator with a longer reach is also being brought in. Since all the TNT has to be destroyed through demolition and the largest allowable lot size for such demolition is 5 pounds, the Corps had been blowing these lots up in series with an 8 millisecond delay between shots until we received a call from a Streeter Creek resident who told us that the explosions were sometimes loud enough to rattle windows. The Munitions Team modified the explosive operation to bury the 5-lb packets deeper and to set them off one at a time. The Team coordinated with the resident when the new procedure was implemented. The resident responded very favorably and reported no problems with the new procedure. The schedule has been revised to complete munitions work by 23 December 2008.

FNOD Environmental Investigation Progress:

Field activities for the Revised Supplemental Remedial Investigation at the Main Burning Ground (Source Area 5) were completed on Friday, October 24th. The Corps collected several soil and groundwater samples to address the remaining data gaps at the MBG. The FNOD Project Engineer, Jeff Zoekler, also briefed the City of Suffolk Wetlands Board on the planned shoreline stabilization efforts at the Nansemond River Beachfront on October 16, 2008. While a joint permit application was not required for the project, the Corps still needs to coordinate with the City and the Wetlands Board requested that the Corps present an update on the removal action and associated shoreline stabilization. The Board provided positive feedback on the presentation. Finally, with the ongoing development to the west of FNOD, the Corps plans to abandon a total of 4 existing monitoring wells in this area during the first week in November. These wells were initially installed as part of a background investigation and are no longer needed to support active environmental investigations. Just in case, however, the Corps is currently re-sampling these wells one last time before abandoning them. The abandonment process involves removing the surface components of the wells and grouting the subsurface casings in place to remove any conduit for surface contamination reaching the groundwater below.

The Army Corps greatly appreciates the public's interest in this environmental restoration project and we will do our best to meet your informational needs. Many of your questions can probably be answered by visiting the FNOD web page at www.nao.usace.army.mil/fnod. Or, you may contact our Public Affairs representative, Gerald Rogers, at 757-201-7241.